

and faith. Through her humble beginnings, Dr. Martin said she learned from her surroundings, “the farm . . . and the road . . . and the community,” and believes, “you didn’t have to have letters behind your name to be educated.”

Through various chapters of learning, Dr. Martin has never stalled in her intellectual journey. She graduated from Columbia State Community College in 1975 with a degree in data processing. A year later, she received a Master of Science in Computer Information Systems from Middle Tennessee State University. She then received a doctorate of Higher Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University.

Dr. Martin not only earned her degrees from these institutions, but also chose to give back. From 1979 to 2003, she worked in the Computer Science department at Columbia State Community College. Since 2003, Dr. Martin has worked in a promoted role as an Assistant to the President, specializing in Access and Diversity.

Dr. Martin has also served her community well. She served on the Columbia City Council for over 30 years and is finishing her last term as the Vice Mayor of Columbia, where she is the first African American female to hold that position. Dr. Martin also serves on the Board of Directors for Columbia Power & Water, Blood Assurance, and Public Entity Partners. She serves non-profit organizations such as the Boys & Girls Club of South-Central Tennessee, Columbia Miracle League, Maury County NAACP, and many more.

Dr. Martin continues to be involved at New Smyrna Cumberland Presbyterian Church as a teacher, missionary, clerk, elder, and choir member.

Dr. Martin is a pillar of the community who is dedicated to leaving it a better place than she found it. Her life shows how passion and commitment can create a causal chain that benefits whole cities, counties, and, indeed, the state. I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging this great American’s unwavering devotion towards education, her community, and her faith.

HONORING SENATOR SHEVRIN JONES

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Senator Shevrin Jones for his stellar and philanthropic contributions to the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project.

Frederick Douglass once said, “it is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.” I thank Shevrin Jones so much for believing in our mission of interrupting the school to prison pipeline and to guiding our young boys along a cheerfully charted path and sending them to college. He is investing in the children of our community, and they will be the benefactors of his investment for generations to come. He will always be a part of us, and we will always be a part of him. I thank him for all that he does on behalf of our children.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Senator Shevrin Jones, a 2023 Role Model Wall Man with a generous philanthropic spirit

and I ask my colleagues from the 117th Congress to join me in honoring this special circle of brotherhood.

SUPPORTING THE JOYCE/CARSON AMENDMENT TO THE KENNETH MEISEL PUBLIC SERVANTS CLAIMANT FAIRNESS ACT OF 2022, SECTION 5302 OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT, FY2023

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2022

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3050, the Kenneth Meisel Public Servants Claimant Fairness Act of 2022, and the Joyce/Carson amendment, included as Section 5305 of this year’s National Defense Authorization Act. Our bipartisan amendment added the language of our bill, the Kenneth Meisel Public Servants’ Claimant Fairness Act. This important change will increase the time, from 30 days to 60 days, that federal employees have to provide supporting documentation to the Office of Workers’ Compensation Programs to support their occupational illness, traumatic injury, or death claim. I am proud that this language was included in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2023, which has passed both the House and Senate, and is now awaiting President Biden’s signature.

I would like to also recognize Kenneth Meisel, for whom this bill was named. Kenneth Meisel was an air marshal stationed in Minneapolis. He unfortunately passed away too soon as a result of COVID-19. This bill will ensure that spouses, like Julie Meisel who are left behind, have ample time to complete basic forms required to obtain government benefits. This bill not only honors Ken, but all public servants who are injured in the line of duty. This bill bears the name of a hero who served this country for his entire adult life, and who steadfastly remained on watch while others sheltered at home.

This is very important because public servants like firefighters, and those who work in construction and manufacturing, have a much higher rate of cancer than the general public, and this amendment to the Federal Employees Compensation Act will reduce an unnecessary burden on public servants to access benefits they are entitled to claim.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to submit for the RECORD Mr. Meisel’s obituary as published in the Star Tribune:

Ever since he was 18 years old, Kenneth Meisel was driven to protect and serve.

First he was a U.S. Army paratrooper, then a police officer in Oklahoma and finally a senior federal air marshal stationed in Minneapolis.

With his wife, Julie, he cared for rescue horses on a 20-acre ranch in Princeton, Minn., and looked forward to retiring in two years and being a full-time grandpa, his children said.

But on Sept. 9, Meisel called his son Ryan of Baraboo, Wis., to tell him he was having trouble breathing and was going to the hospital. It was the last time they spoke. Meisel died Sept. 24 of COVID-19. He was 55.

At a memorial service this month, his daughter Amanda Moldenhauer of Ramsey

spoke of a man with the heart of a cowboy and the soul of an Amish rancher—all within “the shell of a true American hero badass,” she said.

Meisel grew up in Sauk City, Wis., and entered the Army in 1984.

He served in Iraq and Afghanistan, but Ryan, born while his dad was in the military, suspected there were other hot spots, too, given the elder Meisel also served in a NATO rapid deployment force based in Italy. As a kid, Ryan would point at a map and ask his dad if he’d been here or there.

“He’d say, ‘I can’t tell you that,’” Ryan said.

Meisel later was a police officer in Shawnee, Okla., and began work as a federal air marshal in Dallas in 2002. As of 2019, he had flown more than 5 million miles, the Transportation Security Administration said.

In 2009, Meisel transferred to the Minneapolis field office and, along with Julie, fulfilled the dream of owning a ranch. The couple cared not only for horses, but also for goats, pigs, cats and chickens—you name it, said son Eric Lewis of Elk River. But Kenneth Meisel drew the line at a capybara.

At work, Meisel did all he could to “stop the bad guys,” but even then was kind and soft-spoken, Ryan said. At the ranch, he was a cowboy down to the Stetson hat. Just as memorable were his bear hugs, his children said.

During that last phone call, Ryan said he couldn’t tell if his dad was worried. But his dad did tell him he was proud of him, and gave a directive: “Take care of my grandson and my daughter-in-law.”

Other survivors include daughters Abigail Carnahan of Elk River and Jacquelyn Glaros of Plymouth; brothers Mike Fleck of Spooner, Wis., Kevin Meisel of Virginia Beach, Va., Kurt Meisel of Reedsburg, Wis., and Karl Meisel of Colorado Springs; sister Ashley Meisel of Baraboo; and five grandchildren.

RECOGNIZING THE OLD ASTORIA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION ARTS DISTRICT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2022

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Old Astoria Neighborhood Association (OANA) in support of their efforts to create a dedicated arts district located along the waterfront in Astoria, New York. OANA, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization founded in 2014 by President Richard Khuzami, has displayed a long-lasting commitment to the community and promotes quality of life, economic growth, and culture throughout Astoria.

The Astoria Waterfront Arts District (AWAD) proposed by OANA would stretch from Astoria Boulevard south to Rainey Park along the waterfront, housing hundreds of graffiti artists, abstract painters, sculptors, muralists, and many more who contribute to the landscape of the community. The district would be the second arts district established in Astoria following the creation of the Kaufman Arts District in 2014. It would aim to showcase artwork by many of the world’s most highly recognized artists and sculptors in addition to hundreds of works by community artists. The district would encompass many cultural institutions in Western Queens, among which are the Socrates